IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PATENT APPLICATION

Applicants : Kevin P. Fox et al.

Application No. : 10/782,018 Confirmation No. : 4299

Filed : February 19, 2004

For : IMAGE DISPLAY WITH CONFIGURABLE

LETTERING

Group Art Unit : 3611

Examiner : Cassandra Davis

New York, New York 10036 February 13, 2008

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.181 TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Abandonment mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on January 16, 2008, applicants respectfully petition the Office to withdraw the holding of abandonment in this application. Applicants submit that the holding was made in error. The Office issued a Non-Final Office Action on July 11, 2007, and the applicants filed a Reply on January 11, 2008 accompanied by a Petition for a Three

Month Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Applicants submit herewith a copy of the papers filed on July 11, 2007 and a print-out from the Office's Private Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) System reflecting the date that the Reply was filed. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that a complete and timely Reply to the Action was filed and request that the holding of abandonment be withdrawn.

Please charge any fees necessary in connection with this Petition to Deposit Account No. 06-1075.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Richard Allison/

Richard G. Allison
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Transmittal Form with Express Mail Certification (in duplicate); Reply to Office Action; and Petition for Extension of Time (3 month) (in duplicate). APPLICATION NO. 10/782,018 Kevin P. Fox et al. RECEIPT IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED OF THE CONFIRMATION NO. DOCKET NO. FILED February 19, 2004 BHA/017 4299

APPLICANTS

DATED January J1, 2008 FILED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE CASE.

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EM 111720726 US RGA/ch 104557-0017-101

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

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Application Number

Filing Date

TRANSMITTAL

10/782,018

February 19, 2004

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Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts Under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 Remarks The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional surcharge or or fee due, or to credit any overpayment, in connection with this Submission Deposit Account No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this Submission is enclosed herewith						on with this Submission, to						
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT												
Firm Name Ropes & Gray LLP												
Signature Signature												
Printed name Richard G. Allison												
Date January 11, 2008					Reg. No. 60,386							
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sufficie	I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:											
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1460, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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	The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.										
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136(a). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 6 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1459. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

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For : IMAGE DISPLAY WITH CONFIGURABLE

LETTERING

Group Art Unit : 3611

Examiner : Cassandra Davis

New York, New York 10036 January 11, 2008

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Non-Final Office Action dated July 11, 2007. A three month extension of time is applicable hereto and is being submitted herewith. Applicants amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing beginning on page 2 of this Reply to Office Action.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this Reply to Office Action.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

(previously presented) A display comprising:
 a base having a first display window and a second display window;

a tile carrier having a top portion and a lower portion located in the first display window, wherein a plurality of tiles are operable to be retained in the tile carrier by slidable engagement of upper and lower sides of the plurality of tiles with the top and lower portions of the tile carrier and the dimensions of the first display window are different from the dimensions of the second display window; and

a picture retained in the second display window.

- 2. (previously presented) The display of claim 1, wherein the top portion of the tile carrier and the lower portion of the carrier each include a channel.
- 3. (previously presented) The display of claim 2, wherein the plurality of tiles slidingly engage the channels.
 - 4. (cancelled)
- 5. (previously presented) The display of claim 1, wherein the first display window includes a recessed portion disposed on an inner surface of the base.
- 6. (withdrawn) The display having configurable lettering of claim 1, wherein the base is integral to a photo album.

- 7. (withdrawn) The display having configurable lettering of claim 1, wherein the base is integral to a photo frame.
- 8. (previously presented) The display of claim 1, further including an overlay having a rear surface adjacent to an outer surface of the base.
- 9. (previously presented) The display of claim 1, wherein at least one recessed portion is disposed adjacent an upper edge and a lower edge of the first display window.
- 10. (withdrawn) The display having configurable lettering of claim 1, further including a backing pivotally attached to the base, wherein the backing engages the inner surface of the base in a closed position.
- 11. (withdrawn) The display having configurable lettering of claim 1, further including an overlay pivotally attached to the base, wherein the overlay engages the an outer surface of the base in a closed position.
 - 12. (previously presented) A display comprising:
- a base having a first display window and a second display window, wherein said first and second display windows are disposed inside a perimeter of the base;
- a plurality of tiles having an upper side, and a lower side; and
- a tile carrier configured to be retentively located in the first display window, the tile carrier having an upper channel and a lower channel, wherein the upper side of the tiles slidingly engage the upper channel and the lower side of the tiles slidingly engage the lower channel and a picture is operable to be displayed in the second display window.

- 13. (previously presented) The display of claim 12, wherein the picture is displayed in the second display window.
- 14. (previously presented) The display of claim 12, wherein the first display window includes a recessed portion disposed on an inner surface of the base.
- 15. (previously presented) The display of claim 12, wherein a recessed portion is disposed adjacent an upper edge and a lower edge of the first display window.
- 16. (previously presented) The display of claim 12, wherein the second display window includes a recessed portion disposed on an inner surface of the base.
- 17. (withdrawn) The display having configurable lettering of claim 12, wherein the base is integral to a photo album.
- 18. (withdrawn) The display having configurable lettering of claim 12, wherein the base is integral to a photo frame.
- 19. (previously presented) The display of claim 12, further including an overlay having a rear surface adjacent a front surface of the base.
- 20. (previously presented) A method of display an image, comprising:

providing a plurality of tiles having an upper side and a lower side, and a base having a first and a second display window, wherein the second window is adapted to receive the image;

sliding the upper and lower sides of the plurality of tiles into an upper and lower channel disposed on a tile carrier;

placing the tile carrier into a recess portion disposed adjacent the first display window, such that a front surface of the plurality of tiles is visible through the first display window;

aligning the first display window with a first aperture in an overlay; and

aligning the second display window with a second aperture in the overlay.

21. (original) A photograph frame having configurable lettering, comprising:

a base having a plurality of display windows disposed inside a perimeter of the base;

at least one recessed portion disposed on the base adjacent to a first of the plurality of display windows;

a tile carrier having an upper channel, a lower channel, an upper edge, and a lower edge, wherein the upper edge and a lower edge engage with the at least one recessed portion;

a plurality of tiles having an upper side and a lower side; wherein the upper side of the tiles slidingly engage the upper channel of the tile carrier and the lower side of the tiles slidingly engage the lower channel of the tile carrier; and

an overlay having a plurality of aperture, wherein a first of the plurality of apertures aligns with the first of the plurality of display windows, such that the plurality of tiles are visible trough the first of the plurality of apertures.

22. (original) The photograph frame having configurable lettering of claim 21, further including a second of the plurality of display windows located above the first of the plurality of display windows.

23. (withdrawn) An image display having configurable lettering, comprising:

a base having an inner surface and at least one display window disposed inside a perimeter of the base;

at least one recessed portion disposed on the inner surface of the base adjacent to the at least one display window;

a plurality of tiles having an upper side and a lower side, wherein at least one of the upper and lower sides includes one of a notch and a tab;

a tile carrier having a top portion and a lower portion, wherein at least one of the top and bottom portions includes the other of the notch and tab, the tiles engaging the tile carrier by engagement of the notch and tab in a puzzle-like fashion, and wherein the tile carrier is configured to be retentively engaged by the at least one recessed portion when the tile carrier is disposed therein.

24. (withdrawn) An image display having configurable lettering, comprising:

a base having an inner surface and at least one display window disposed inside a perimeter of the base;

at least one recessed portion disposed on the inner surface of the base adjacent to the at least one display window including one of a notched section and a tabbed section; and

a plurality of tiles having an upper side and a lower side, wherein at least one of the upper and lower sides includes the other of the notched section and the tabbed section, wherein the tiles engaging the base by engagement of the notched and tabbed section of the recess portion and the tiles in a puzzle-like fashion.

25. (withdrawn) An image display having configurable lettering, comprising:

a base having an inner surface and at least one display window disposed inside a perimeter of the base;

a plurality of tiles; and

a pouch having an opening for receiving the plurality of tiles, wherein the pouch is configured to attach to the inner surface of the base, such that the tiles are viewable through the at least one display window.

- 26. (withdrawn) An image display having configurable lettering, comprising:
 - a base having an outer surface;

a frame having a viewing window and a rear surface, wherein the rear surface of the frame engages the outer surface of the base; and

a plurality of tiles having an upper side and a lower side, wherein the upper and lower sides of the tiles retentively engage the frame when the tiles are visible through the viewing window.

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-3 and 5-26 are pending in this application.

Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 23-26 were withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-16 and 19-22* were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramsay U.S. Patent No. 4,682,430 (hereinafter "Ramsay") in view of Livingston U.S. Patent No. 1,877,919 (hereinafter "Livingston").

Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Applicants' Reply to the Withdrawal of Claims

The Examiner withdrew claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 23-26. Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17 and 18, however, depend from claims that have not been withdrawn. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner reinstate any withdrawn dependent claim that depends from an allowed claim when such a claim is allowed.

^{*} Given that claim 4 has been cancelled and claim 7 has been previously withdrawn, applicants interpret the Examiner's rejection as applying to claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 12-16 and 19-22.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejections under 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 12-16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramsay in view of Livingston.

Ramsay discusses a panel with guide tracks for receiving a price chip support strip adjacent to a frame panel. The frame panel has "an opaque mask 39 on its forward face defining elongated clear window panels 40 for the display of the price chip indicia." Ramsay, col. 3, lines 35-37.

Livingston merely discusses a flat panel of glass adjacent to an assembly strip carrying a plurality of inscribed plates.

Claim 1

Applicants' invention, as described by claim 1, teaches a base having a first display window and a second display window. The invention includes a tile carrier located in the first display window and a picture retained in the second display window. The tile carrier comprises a top portion and a lower portion so that each tile can be slidably engaged with the top portion and lower portion of the tile carrier. The dimensions of the first display window are different from the dimensions of the second display window.

The Examiner stated that "[i]t would have been obvious

to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to construct [a] tile carrier of the price chip support strip taught [by] Ramsay with the tile carrier taught by Livingston to provide a means to slidably retain the tile so as to provide a means to selectively place the tile at any desired location on the carrier." Office Action, page 4.

However, Ramsay, Livingston or any combination of any of the cited prior art references does not show or suggest applicants' invention of claim 1 of a first display window and a second display window, wherein the dimensions of the first display window are different from the dimensions of the second display window and a picture is retained in the second display window. Ramsay merely discusses a "number of equal size display openings 23" (Ramsay, col. 2, lines 17-20), and Livingston discusses a single "flat panel of glass or other transparent material" (Livingston, col. 1, lines 35-36). Moreover, neither reference discusses the display of pictures.

Applicants further contend that Ramsay teaches away from the Examiner's proposed combination and that, moreover, this combination would render the Ramsay device inoperable for its intended purpose. Ramsay teaches a price chip support strip having pockets that allow a user to quickly and easily interchange individual price chips while avoiding "errors in the locating of the price chips along the support strip." Ramsay,

col. 1, lines 23-24. The Examiner's proposed combination, replacing Ramsay's price chip support strip with the assembly strip discussed in Livingston, would result in a device that does not quarantee the location or alignment of the price chips as taught by Ramsay. Therefore, Ramsay teaches away from the Examiner's proposed motivation of providing "a means to selectively place the tile at any desired location on the carrier." Office Action, page 4. Moreover, the proposed combination would require a user to completely disassemble a display in order to change a single price chip, which is directly contrary to its intended purpose thus rendering the Ramsay device inoperable to quickly and easily change individual price chips. For example, Ramsay enables a user to change the price of an object from \$123.45 to \$113.45 by easily replacing a single tile. That easy replacement would not be possible with the Examiner's proposed combination, where a user would have to remove all tiles to the left or right of the single tile to be changed. Accordingly, the Examiner's proposed combination is improper.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 12

Applicants' invention, as defined by claim 12, teaches

a base having a first display window and a second display window. A tile carrier is located in the first window for retaining tiles and a picture is operable to be displayed in the second window.

The Examiner stated that "[i]t would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to construct [a] tile carrier of the price chip support strip taught [by] Ramsay with the tile carrier taught by Livingston to provide a means to slidably retain the tile so as to provide a means to selectively place the tile at any desired location on the carrier." Office Action, page 4.

Ramsay specifically does not want to place tiles at "any" location. Ramsay wants tiles at very specific locations without having to change other tiles. This cannot be accomplished with the Examiner's proposed combination, which would therefore, eviscerate Ramsay's invention.

Moreover, neither Ramsay, Livingston nor any combination of any of the cited prior art references shows or suggests applicants' invention of claim 12 of a first display window and a second display window, wherein a picture is operable to be displayed in the second display window. As previously set forth, both references are silent on displaying pictures.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully

request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 12, and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 20

Applicants' invention, as described by claim 20, teaches a method for displaying an image that includes providing a base having a first and a second display window wherein the second window is adapted to receive the image. The invention further teaches aligning the first display window with a first aperture in an overlay and aligning the second display window with a second aperture in the overlay.

In addition to proposing the combination of Ramsay and Livingston, the Examiner stated that "the method limitations [of claim 20] are inherent in the teaching of Ramsay." Office Action, page 5.

However, Ramsay, Livingston or any combination of any of the cited prior art references does not show or suggest applicants' invention of claim 20 of a method that includes, for example, providing a base wherein the second window of the base is adapted to receive an image. Ramsay merely discusses the display of price chips having letters or numbers. Applicants further submit that neither Ramsay nor Livingston show or suggest applicants' claimed steps of aligning the first display window with a first aperture in an overlay and aligning the

second display window with a second aperture in the overlay.

Applicants further contend, as previously outlined, that Ramsay teaches away from the Examiner's proposed combination and, moreover, this combination would render the Ramsay device inoperable for its intended purpose. Accordingly, the Examiner's proposed combination is improper.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 20 and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 21

Applicants' invention, as described by claim 21, teaches a photograph frame comprising a base having a plurality of display windows and an overlay having a plurality of apertures, wherein the first of the plurality of apertures aligns with the first of the plurality of display windows.

The Examiner stated that "[i]t would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to construct [a] tile carrier of the price chip support strip taught [by] Ramsay with the tile carrier taught by Livingston to provide a means to slidably retain the tile so as to provide a means to selectively place the tile at any desired location on the carrier." Office Action, page 4.

However, Ramsay, Livingston or any combination of any

of the cited prior art references does not show or suggest applicants' invention of claim 21 of a photograph frame that includes an overlay having a plurality of apertures such that the first of the plurality of apertures aligns with the first of the display windows. Ramsay discusses a price support strip and is silent as to photograph frames. Livingston merely discusses a single panel of glass. Moreover, neither reference discusses an overlay having a plurality of apertures.

Applicants further contend, as previously outlined, that Ramsay teaches away from the Examiner's proposed combination and, moreover, this combination would render the Ramsay device inoperable for its intended purpose. Accordingly, the Examiner's proposed combination is improper.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 21 and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application,

including the pending claims, is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Allison

Reg. No. 60,386

Agent for Applicants

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10/782,018	Image display with configurable lettering	02-12- 2008::19:42:24
Transactio	n History	
Date	Transaction Description	
02-10-2008	Date Forwarded to Examiner	
01-11-2008	Response after Non-Final Action	
01-11-2008	Request for Extension of Time - Granted	
08-19-2004	Corrected filing receipt	
01-16-2008	Mail Abandonment for Failure to Respond to Office Action	
01-15-2008	Abandonment for Failure to Respond to Office Action	
07-11-2007	Mail Non-Final Rejection	
05-29-2007	Non-Final Rejection	
03-23-2007	Date Forwarded to Examiner	
03-07-2007	Response after Non-Final Action	
03-07-2007	Request for Extension of Time - Granted	
01-17-2007	Correspondence Address Change	
01-17-2007	Change in Power of Attorney (May Include Associate POA)	
09-08-2006	Mail Non-Final Rejection	
09-05-2006	Non-Final Rejection	
05-21-2004	Information Disclosure Statement considered	
06-28-2006	Date Forwarded to Examiner	
06-22-2006	Response to Election / Restriction Filed	
06-22-2006	Request for Extension of Time - Granted	
03-29-2006	Correspondence Address Change	
03-30-2006	Change in Power of Attorney (May Include Associate POA)	
03-20-2006	Mail Restriction Requirement	
03-15-2006	Requirement for Restriction / Election	
10-25-2005	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU	
07-29-2005	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU	
01-07-2005	IFW TSS Processing by Tech Center Complete	
05-21-2004	Reference capture on IDS	
05-21-2004	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed	
05-21-2004	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed	
01-06-2005	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU	
11-16-2004	Application Return from OIPE	
11-16-2004	Application Return TO OIPE	
11-15-2004	Application Dispatched from OIPE	
11-16-2004	Application Is Now Complete	
11-05-2004	Additional Application Filing Fees	
11-05-2004	A statement by one or more inventors satisfying the requirement under 35 USC Applic	115, Oath of the
08-19-2004	Additional Application Filing Fees	
08-19-2004	A statement by one or more inventors satisfying the requirement under 35 USC Applic	115, Oath of the
05-13-2004	Notice MailedApplication IncompleteFiling Date Assigned	
03-24-2004	Cleared by OIPE CSR	
03-06-2004	IFW Scan & PACR Auto Security Review	
02-19-2004	Initial Exam Team nn	

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